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# Realistic Architect

Wallace Kirkman Harrison

**A**UTHORITIES on the subject say that Wallace Kirkman Harrison has had more practical influence on building construction in New York City than any other architect of his day. And the design of New York dictates to a great extent the style of new building in other cities of the United States.

More than any other man, Mr. Harrison is responsible for the so-called "slab," or glass block on end. This is the typical shape of office building that is springing up everywhere these days.

As the coordinator of design for the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Mr. Harrison will not, of course, insist upon theatre and concert halls in slab form. He has said that all would be in a style he calls "modern baroque." Whatever that may mean, observers of his career may anticipate that the design will feature buildings set within plazas off the street, facades of sweeping glass walls, passageways beneath the sidewalk level and fountains and shrubbery used for ornamentation.

Above all, one may be sure the design of the center will be practical, built to fulfill its economic function.

## Worked on Rockefeller Center

Being willing to compromise "more than once" with builders, he has managed to get a lot of important buildings put up. He was one of the seven principal architects who laid out Rockefeller Center, and was the head man before the job was ended. In 1947, he took charge of designing the United Nations headquarters.

Mr. Harrison's career has been intertwined with that of Nelson A. Rockefeller in a significant way for twenty-five years. His wife, Ellen, is related by marriage to Mr. Rockefeller's sister, Abby.

However, the architect first became a close friend of Mr. Rockefeller's during the decade that Rockefeller Center was under construction. Mr. Rockefeller was president of the Rockefeller corporation.

During World War II, Mr. Harrison believed his career as an architect to serve from 1941 to 1946 as a subordinate to Mr. Rockefeller, who headed the Office of Inter-American Affairs for most of that time.

Mr. Harrison is 63 years old, a tall, lanky man with a somewhat ungainly walk. He has a friendly, open face.



The design will be practical

and receding brown hair. His manner is hearty, informal, frank.

It is not quite true that he is a self-taught architect, but he has had remarkably little conventional education. He was born in Worcester, Mass., the son of the superintendent of an iron foundry. He left public school at 14 to begin work as an office boy for a contractor in his home town. At 18 he was hired as a junior draftsman by another firm.

At 20 Mr. Harrison began work in New York for McKim, Mead & White, foremost architects of their day. For \$20 a week. After serving on a submarine chaser in the Mediterranean in World War I, Mr. Harrison studied for two years at the Beaux Arts School in Paris.

His career as a full-fledged architect began in New York in 1924. Among the elders who influenced him was Harvey Wiley Corbett, whose junior partner he was from 1927 to 1934. The partnership with Max Abramson, formerly one of his partners, dates from 1946.

Mr. Harrison and his wife, the former Ellen Hunt Milson, maintain a Fifth Avenue apartment so filled with modern art that it might be taken for a museum. However, much of the time they and their daughter reside in a year-round cottage house in Washington, D. C.

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*Handwritten:*  
X Pers 2 R. HARRIS  
X Pers 2 N. V. CLARY  
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X Pers 1 F. LEWIS, Jr.



**STUDENT PARADERS**—Ohio State University student Robert Henes, left, of 135 E. 12th Ave., dressed in Fidel fashion, strums a guitar while parading in front of the Statehouse Tuesday as a group of college students stage a pro-Castro demonstration. Henes said he

wrote the music he played because he is "fired up" over the Cuban situation. At right, Norman Cary, an OSU graduate student in history, leads the student parade in support of the Cuban prime minister. —(Dispatch Photos)

## Pro-Castro College Students Stage Parade at Statehouse

A group of college students paraded in front of the Statehouse for two hours Tuesday afternoon protesting what they termed "United States intervention in Cuban affairs."

Included were 20 Ohio State University and 35 Antioch College students. Some visited Cuba last December as guests of Fidel Castro's revolutionary government.

Many carried placards denouncing this country's assistance to Cuban invasion forces; some denounced the United Fruit Co., and others reported that the Central Intelligence Agency is backing the invasion.

**ONE PLACARD** carried Cuba, Si! Yankee, No. The "no" had been crossed out and "Si" inserted.

The demonstrators were joined by several anti-Castroites who carried signs which read "Down With Castro," and "Cuba, Yes, Castro, No."

The students marched in a circle to the tune of scoffs from a small crowd attracted by the demonstration, which

THE demonstration was originated in Antioch Tuesday morning by Robert Harris, 22, Washington, D.C., an Antioch history student.

Harris enlisted the aid of Norman James Clary, 22, an OSU graduate student in history. Clary lives at 91 E. Frames Ave.

Harris said he spent two weeks in Cuba last "Christmas vacation" and saw evidences that Cuban people have benefitted under Castro. He said this was evidenced by the new homes and cooperative stores he saw.

CLARY at first would not talk to newsmen, claiming "they distort the news." He said the United States is engaged in an illegal action according to Fulton Lewis Jr., radio newscaster, and Nation Magazine.

Harris said Lewis has produced proof the CIA is supporting the invasion of Cuba.

Michael Folsom, 22, Roosevelt, N.J., an Antioch English literature student, said the students were demonstrating as United States citizens concerned with this government's policy towards Cuba.

**PATRICIA FELIX**, 19, Elmira, N.Y., an Antioch student, declared she joined the demonstration because she believes the Cuban people should be allowed to solve their own problems without United States' intervention.

Phillip Luce, 17, High School, said he joined in economics, sports, and

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## LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Mr. Dryden:

I have read with great interest Mr. Alice Kyle's letter (Vermont Standard, April 12, 1962) analyzing the fallacies of one level thinking, with regard to the United States' defense policy.

Mr. Kyle condemns both the pacificatory theory of the Race for Peace Council and the war-like push of the right wingers.

In my humble opinion, the U. S. has pursued both policies, and I quote Mr. Kyle, "at every sacrifice," for the past twenty years.

Let's review the record and the sacrifices:

The Roosevelt Administration's complacency until our shameful humiliation at Pearl Harbor (an event for which we could and should have been prepared); Roosevelt's blundering concessions at Yalta (against the strong objections of the venerable Winston Churchill, a man with more wisdom and insight than Roosevelt could ever have hoped to attain), giving Russia half of Europe; Harry Truman's plunge into the Korean war, again unprepared, at the cost of many lives; his second thought misgivings when he yanked General MacArthur for his "overaggressiveness," thereby compounding his original stupidity; the baiting of Eisenhower into a position where he was internationally humiliated by Khrushchev (abortive Summit Conference in France); the erection of the Berlin wall without anything more than strong diplomatic objections from the Kennedy administration; the harassment of allied planes in the Berlin air corridor, again met by JFK with puny diplomatic objections; the abortive Cuban invasion fiasco, planned by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (a group of elderly schoolboys playing spy games with the innocent lives against skilled and hardened communists.)

Small wonder that Berlin and the whole of Western Europe are leary of our intentions and actually wonder whether they can count on our support in the event of a Russian attack. With this foreign policy record, we might conceivably call a cease fire, run onto the battlefield, shake hands with the Russians and then drop bombs on our allies.

Recalling the past twenty years, I desperately hope that Mr. Kyle's statement, "I agree with this two-level policy" means only that he agrees with the theory of it and not the inexcusable blundering methods of its expedition, thus far.

### As for the Race for Peace Council

I suggest they review the indications from the above and their consequences.

For those who at this point are branding me a war-monger, let me make this clear — I agree with the theory of the two-level policy. I am all for pacifism at the proper time and for a firm stand, yes, even aggressiveness, when it will forward the defense of democracy. But, it seems that unless we can locate some administrators with insight, timing and judgment, the two level policy is doing more harm than good.

Again, for the Race for Peace Council, I am not a pessimist; Jesus Christ (in the book of St. Matthew, Chap. 24: V.6 and in the book of St. Mark, Chap. 13: V.7) says: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass; but the end is not yet." And who are we mortals to question or attempt to alter His divine prophecies?

I must state emphatically that I believe a war with communism is inevitable. How far in the future that war is, no one can say. A firm stand at this time will serve the purpose of immobilizing Russia's policy of grabbing the world, piece by piece, until we have no allies remaining. A pacifist policy, on the other hand, will aid her expedition of this policy, as it has for the past twenty years.

It would seem to me that we have overemployed pacifism for quite some time now. Let me here quote a Confederate General, who said, "get there fustest with the mostest." To me, at this time, this means a firm, if not aggressive stand with Russia, consisting of not giving an inch when the next crisis arises.

Let me remind the reader that Russia will not fight until the following two things have taken place: (a) They have gained every inch possible without an outright war, and (b) their military superiority is overwhelmingly greater than ours. An unwavering stand will cause the first to take place, but the second will never occur unless we allow it.

Once we have shown our adamant side, we may be able to employ pacifism with some effect in later crises. At the present, pacifism on our part has become obsolete because of our lack of aggressiveness. Until we restore confidence in the Western

world that we can, if necessary, do firm pacifism is utterly worthless.

I am fully aware that President Kennedy cannot correct the errors of the previous three administrations. But, I think that he should turn a force (equivalent to about half of the antitrust zealotness of Estes Kefauver and Robert Kennedy) toward our policy with Russia to prevent further territorial losses to communism. This is the way, and the only way, we are going to have enough remaining allies to "get there fustest with the mostest" when the big war does arrive.

My heartfelt thanks to both Mr. Kyle and the Race for Peace Council for providing the nucleus of stimulation to cause me to write this. It has unburdened me considerably.

Sincerely yours,

B. M. Harris

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